



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Community Service

IN THIS TIME of ill-conceived legislation that the medical profession must oppose because of its threat to good medical care, it is most important for those of us in medicine to present to the general public a true image of a physician and his family. What better way of accomplishing this than through Community Service.

For years your Medical Auxiliary has worked toward this end with decided success. We all know of the Auxiliary's work in Health Careers but some of the less publicized projects have been equally successful in counties where they have been adopted. For example, San Francisco has an outstanding program of "Meals on Wheels" which has been widely acclaimed by the press, radio and television and in an official proclamation by Mayor George Christopher.

San Francisco's program, the first in the West, was started in 1959 for the purpose of supplying nourishing food to the aged and handicapped of the city. The meals are prepared in the kitchen of the Medical Society building and delivered by Auxiliary members. The program has been gradually expanded to provide meals for 35 shut-ins three days a week. Many counties have followed suit with similar programs for the aged, such as the new "Home-maker Service" which provides "good neighbors" to help keep families together during medical crises.

GEMS—Good Emergency Mother Substitutes—is a training program for Junior High and High School baby sitters. It consists of five or six lessons on safety precautions, emergency care, bathing, feeding and behavior patterns of children. Films such as "Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation" and "The ABC of Baby Sitting" are shown and the lessons are taught by auxiliary members who often are RN's or have had other professional training. Thousands of boys and girls have graduated from GEMS and the Auxiliary has earned the gratitude of their parents as well as of those who use their services.

Youth Fitness—emphasized in our National Auxiliary—is a cooperative project with the American

Medical Association to promote youth examinations by members of county medical societies working through local school systems. The Auxiliary will aid in promotion, work and follow-through on these examinations. In some localities arrangements already exist. Where they do not, the Auxiliary can arrange for and promote such programs in the interest of youth as a pure Community Service.

Under Disaster Medical Care (no longer Civil Defense), there is a new program called Medical Self-Help which was initiated to teach American families how to survive a national emergency and how to meet their own health needs if deprived of a physician's services. This 16-hour course consists of 12 lessons. A training kit for teaching the course contains everything needed. A physician serves as instructor to other medical professionals, who in turn teach the general public. The training is administered by states as a cooperative effort of medical, health, educational and civil defense organizations. It is especially suited to physicians and their wives since many of the latter are trained medical personnel. Dr. Cecil H. Coggins of the California Disaster Office is in charge of this program for the State of California. Pilot programs have been initiated in three counties in California and have received the enthusiastic support of all physicians involved. Subject to State financial appropriations, he expects that each county will follow suit within the next year or so. This is a top priority project of the A.M.A. and our assistance is urgently needed.

In addition to the foregoing programs, our members have contributed thousands of hours to such community projects as blood banks, mental health programs, the Hope Ship Project, glaucoma clinics, hospital auxiliaries, KO Polio, cancer drives and many others too numerous to mention.

All this has been done with one thing in mind—to represent organized medicine as a truly humanitarian organization working for the public good. With your help, we plan to continue.

MRS. ROBERT J. WIESE
Chairman, Community Service